

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-33 Canceled

34. (Original) A method of delivering energy to ablate tissue, comprising the steps of:
providing a device having an ablating element;
positioning the device at a tissue site, the tissue site having a near surface and a far surface;
measuring a temperature change at the tissue site over a period of time;
analyzing the temperature change to provide a tissue characterization; and
ablating the tissue in response to the tissue characterization.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein:
the analyzing and ablating steps are controlled by a control system;
the positioning step is carried out with the tissue site having a near surface and a far surface; and
the ablating step being carried out by maintaining the near surface temperature at a temperature of 0-80°C during the ablating step.

36. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein:
the providing step is carried out with the device having an ablating element; and
the method also including the step of changing the temperature of the tissue with the ablating element; and
the ablating step is carried out with the ablating element.

37. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein:
the positioning step is carried out with the device being in contact with the epicardium.

38. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein:
the ablating step is carried out using the results of the measuring step to approximate when the far surface achieves a target temperature.

39. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein:
the ablating step is carried out with input of at least one variable from a list of variables consisting of presence of fat, amount of fat, flow rate of blood, tissue thickness and temperature of blood.

40. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein:
the ablating step is carried out with a plurality of ablating elements, wherein no more than 50% of the ablating elements are activated at one time.

41. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein:
the providing step is carried out with the device having a plurality of suction wells, at least one of the ablating elements being positioned in each of the suction wells.

42. (Original) A device for ablating tissue, comprising:
an elongate body having an end, the elongate body having at least one ablating element; and
a plurality of suction wells in the body, the suction wells being positioned along the length of the body.

43. (Original) The device of claim 42, wherein:
the elongate body has a plurality of ablating elements.

44. (Original) The device of claim 43, wherein:
the suction wells are coupled to a suction lumen.

45. (Original) The device of claim 47, further comprising:
a second suction lumen coupled to another plurality of suction wells.

46. (Original) The device of claim 46, wherein:
the suction lumen is formed by a tube attached to the body.

47. (Original) The device of claim 42, wherein:
the suction well surrounds the ablating element.

48. (Original) The device of claim 44, wherein:
the suction well is formed by an inner lip and an outer lip;
the device further comprising a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet, the fluid inlet
and outlet being configured to pass a fluid into and out of a space bounded by the inner
lip.

49. (Original) The device of claim 46, wherein:
the fluid outlet is coupled to a suction lumen which is also coupled to at
least one of the suction wells.

50. (Original) A method of creating a continuous ablation lesion in
heart tissue, comprising the steps of:
providing a first ablating section and a second ablating section, the first
and second ablating sections each having an end and an ablating element;
positioning the first and second ablating sections in contact with the
epicardium;
wrapping the first and second ablating sections around at least one vessel;
interlocking the first and second sections to form a closed loop around the
at least one vessel.

51. (Original) A method of creating a continuous lesion in tissue, comprising the steps of:

- providing an ablating device having an ablating element;
- positioning the ablating device in contact with the epicardium;
- ablating tissue to create a first lesion;
- moving the ablating device to a location adjacent the first lesion;
- ablating tissue with the ablating element to create a second lesion which is continuous with the first lesion.

52. (Original) A method of creating a lesion from an epicardial location, comprising the steps of:

- providing a first device and a second device slidably coupled to the first device, at least one of the first and second devices having an ablating element;
- introducing the first and second devices into the pericardial space;
- ablating tissue to form a first lesion with the ablating element;
- moving at least one of the first and second devices relative to the other;

and

- forming a second lesion after the moving step.

53. (Original) A method of ablating cardiac tissue, comprising the steps of:

- providing an ablating device having an ablating element and a suction well, the suction well being coupled to a suction line which is coupled to a vacuum source, the ablating device also having means for determining when the suction well is adhered to the epicardium;
- positioning the ablating device against the patient's epicardium;
- adhering the ablating device to the epicardium with the suction well; and
- ablating tissue with the ablating element after the adhering step.

54. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein:

the providing step is carried out with the determining means being a sensor selected from the group of sensors consisting of a flow rate sensor, a pressure sensor and an electric circuit.

Claims 55-74 Canceled